(b) what is the target fixed for doubling of track work in Southern Railway in the year 2006-07; and

(c) how many more tracks are under survey?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) 12 Kilometres. Commissioning will be done after non-interlocking works in yards.

(b) 46 Kilometres.

(c) 01.

Rail bridges over Ganga in Patna and Munger

†2392. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that rail bridges are being constructed under the mega project in Patna and Munger in Bihar respectively on the River Ganga;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the pace of construction work of both these rail bridges is very slow and the possibility of completing the construction work within declared time-frame is remote; and

(c) if so, the details thereof including financial outlay and physical achievement thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes. Sir.

(b) and (c) On both these bridges various activities related to the project involving land acquisition, earthwork, bridges on the approaches etc. have been taken up. The sub-structure works of the bridges are also in progress. However, the progress is lagging behind as per the original time schedule due to various reasons. An expenditure of Rs. 131.10 crore has been incurred up to 31.3.2006 on Munger bridge and an outlay of Rs. 120 crore has been provided for the work during

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

2006-07. On bridge near Patna, an expenditure of Rs. 235.29 crore has been incurred up to 31.3.2006 and an outlay of Rs. 120 crore has been provided for the work during 2006-07. The physical progress of Munger bridge is abour 15% and of Patna bridge is about 40%.

Conversion of narrow gauge into broad gauge

†2393. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of number of narrow gauge lines that were proposed to converted in broad gauge lines during the year 2005-06, State-wise; and

(b) the number of lines converted, so far, and the estimated expenditure incurred on the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No narrow gauge line was targeted for conversion during 2005-06. However, ten projects for conversion of narrow gauge into broad gauge have been taken up.

(b) Does not arise.

Assistance to SSIs in Andhra Pradesh

2394. SHRI GIRISH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any efforts have been made to assist SSI in Andhra Pradesh to boost their business;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) The development of small scale industries is primarily the responsibility of the respective State/Union Territory (UT) Governments/Administrations. The Central Government, however, supports and supplements the efforts of the State Governments/UT

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.